were successfully used to treat injured soldiers during Iraq war to accelerate blood transfusion by maintaining donors' blood at body temperature.

(b) if so, the features of this equipment and in what type of cases it was found to be useful;

(c) whether it has been found suitable for use in accidents and trauma cases; and

(d) the steps taken to popularise use of this equipment in the hospitals and accidents and trauma centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir, a Bangalore based firm has been manufacturing blood warmers, and has bagged a contract with a U.S. based company to supply these to the U.S. Army. These blood warmers have been patented by the U.S. company, and are being manufactured in India for supply to the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Blood warmers are devices used in rare instances to warm blood up to body temperature levels, which was previously stored in refrigerators prior to being used in blood transfusion at short notice. Blood warmers are used particularly, when the patient receives multiple, rapid trasfusions, to prevent onset of arrhythmia or cardiac arrest. Blood warmers are not indicated for routine transfusion of blood.

Accident and trauma cases are not being administered blood "thawed" by blood warmers, in hospitals and accident and trauma centres.

Agitation by CGHS Employees

40. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CGHS employees went on an agitation in the month of May 2003 to press for their demands;

(b) if so, the details of their demands; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to mitigate their problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The All India CGHS employees Association went on an agitation in May, 2003 to press for withdrawal of orders stopping grant of Patient Care Allowance (PCA) to certain categories of non-ministerial CGHS staff not working in CGHS dispensaries. The matter is being re-examined in consultation with the concerened Departments.

HIV positive patients

†41. SHRI MOTILALVORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of HIV positive patients is increasing continuously;

(b) if so, whether Government have reviewed the causes responsible for the same;

(c) whether Government would conduct another review of the AIDS control campaign; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The main reasons for the increase in reported number of HIV/AIDS cases are: (i) increase in the number of hospitals and health care facilities admitting and/or treating HIV/AIDS cases; (ii) increase in the number of voluntary counselling testing centres and (iii) higher awareness in the community about HIV/AIDS treatment facilities.

(c) and (d) Government reviews the programme time to time.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.